



THE ALAMO SIERRAN

THE ALAMO GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER - VOL. 41 No. 11 DECEMBER 2007

Holiday Party and Silent Auction Tuesday December 18

Don't miss our festive holiday potluck and silent auction at Lion's Field on Broadway, same spot as last year (details below). Pick up something special for friends, family or yourself while enjoying tasty food, lively conversation, and music. Visit www.alamosierraclub.org to view all the gifts. Call Paula Stone at 393-7351 by Saturday, Dec. 15 to donate. See you there!

A Word from the Chair by Jerry Morrissey

The Alamo Group has many accomplishments to be proud of this year. We have worked diligently on communications. We continue to improve and regularly update our website, <http://alamosierraclub.org>. We have a larger Action Alert list that allows us to quickly inform members of conservation issues where their actions can make a difference. We have reduced our carbon foot print because hundreds of members have converted to an electronic newsletter. Thanks to those who have participated and to those who will join the effort in the coming year.

Our major conservation thrust has been in the area of energy policy. As a result of our Cool Cities Campaign, mayors Phil Hardberger of San Antonio and David Marne of Shavano Park signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Two Group members were on the CPS Energy Citizens Advisory Committee that recommended a more aggressive energy efficiency program, later adopted by CPS. About 25 members participated in the Energy Summit sponsored by CPS Energy. We developed Energy Policy recommendations for CPS Energy and the City of San Antonio that were presented by Loretta Van Coppenolle at a press conference on November 13. We will continue to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources as alternatives to nuclear power. Recognizing our momentum, the national Sierra Club has hired staffperson Ana Paredes to help us advance this campaign. Thanks to those who have contributed words and actions in support of better energy policy.

Other accomplishments include a series of very informative programs at our general meetings and an increased number of enjoyable outings and social events during the past year. You are invited to attend our largest social event of the year, the festive potluck dinner and auction. Best wishes for a peaceful holiday season.

ExCom Election

Don't forget to vote. See candidate biographies and ballot inside.

Holiday Party

General Meeting: 7:00 P.M., 3rd Tuesday each month at the Witte Museum located at 3801 Broadway just south of Hildebrand Ave. Socializing begins at 6:40, program at 7 P.M.

December 18, 2007: Holiday Party and Silent Auction

Join fellow Sierrans at Lion's Field, 2809 Broadway, from 6:30-8:30 (same location as last year) for a potluck dinner and fundraising auction. Don't forget to donate an item or a service by contacting Paula Stone at paula@PaulaStoneInteriors.com or 393-7351 (deadline December 15). Bring a dish to share and money for that must-have something that will help us do more for the environment. Note early start time.

January 15, 2008: 17 Days on the John Muir Trail

Explore our Club's namesake Sierra Nevada mountains through the lens of San Antonio's Dave Pasley.

Electrons or Cash? help support the Alamo Sierran

Each December we ask you to financially support this newsletter, with its unique perspective on local environmental events - the side you're not likely to see elsewhere. This year, we offer an exciting alternative to your monetary donation: electronic delivery. The electronic newsletter saves trees; perfect for our organization. Already, hundreds of Alamo Group members have signed on. Printing and mailing the paper newsletter is expensive, but electronic delivery allows us to devote more money to our conservation efforts.

Give it a try. You can view the newsletter right on your computer

Continued on Page 3

The Not-So-Great Wall of Texas

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is forging ahead with plans to build 700 miles of massive barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border, including two main Texas segments - one from Del Rio to Eagle Pass and another from Laredo to Brownsville. The damage to cities, farms, and wildlife habitats along the Rio Grande will be profound if they succeed.

These walls would consist of at least two parallel layers of reinforced fencing. They were authorized by the Republican-dominated Congress in 2006 (Secure Fence Act). Existing barriers are built of concrete and steel plates standing 15 feet tall, bordered by 50 feet of barren earth on each side. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, they

Continued on Page 2

Not-So-Great Wall Continued

only delay people attempting to cross by five minutes.

Normally, federal environmental laws would provide some protection to the 20 threatened and endangered species and hundreds of other plant and animal species that inhabit the diverse Rio Grande corridor. Tragically, the Real ID Act passed in 2005 allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to ignore the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and National Historic Preservation Act, thus fragmenting and isolating riparian woodlands, parks and wildlife refuges, endangering native cats like the ocelot and jaguarundi, cutting off river access, and removing historical and archeological sites. Surely this is not the way to control illegal immigration or terrorism. **Please sign the petition in the fall 2007 Lone Star Sierran**, or contact Valley Nature Center, 301 S. Border Ave., Weslaco, TX 78596. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the border wall is available at www.BorderFenceNEPA.com or call (877) 752-0420. Please comment on the DEIS.

Fred Wills

Alamo Group's Energy Plan: Enlarging the Conversation

The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club has compiled a list of recommendations for CPS and the city of San Antonio to help reduce energy use. Our energy plan can add to progress already made by CPS. It is our hope that it will spur broader and more active participation by the community. CPS should embrace our suggestions as an alternative to building more nuclear plants in South Texas. The Alamo group's major recommendations for CPS are listed below.

1) Set goal stating that 30% of CPS Energy's demand will be met by renewable energy by 2025. 2) Establish an ongoing source of clean energy funding. 3) Establish a citizens' conservation committee, make education/outreach a permanent strategy, maintain and expand successful rebates, establish innovative

funding methods for residential and commercial investments in efficiency. 4) Track effectiveness of CPS internal and CPS-supported external energy conservation projects. 5) Provide additional conservation and comparison information on bills. 6) Implement a time-based tiered rate structure for residential and commercial electricity to reduce peak demand (charge less during off-peak time). 7) Diversify more to include solar, geothermal, combined heat and power, and expanded wind power. 8) Re-establish tree canopy of 35%. (recommendations for the city will be in next month's Sierran; see full text on website: <http://texas.sierraclub.org/alamo/pdf%27s/AlamoEnergyPolicy20071112.pdf>)

Barbara McMillin

"What I see is the great juggernaut of Western culture with its insane need to fill space, all of it, until there is no space or silence left."-John Burdett

ExCom Candidate Statements

ELLEN CLEGG

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1971 and have been very active in outings. In the Angeles Chapter (Los Angeles), I led desert trips for the Camera Committee and lodge, desert, and beach trips for Sierra Singles. I feel strongly that outings are one of the best ways to get people involved with and committed to the environment. After all, no one is going to care about saving it if they haven't seen it. I would like to be on ExCom to function as a liaison to the outings committee.

SANDY REDMOND

I first joined the Sierra Club in 2001. One of my first activities was to attend an outing, which was great! I wanted to meet people with similar interests, and ended up learning a lot about the organization. I have served as Membership Chair, as well as on the ExCom. I currently work for a local non-profit agency, and will complete my Masters in December 2007. I look forward to returning to the ExCom once I graduate. I have a strong interest in conservation and the outdoors, and hope to work on the political aspects of the organization. I will work hard and utilize

my skills to help further the goals of the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club. I would appreciate your vote.

JANE WARD

I have been a Sierra Club life member since the 1970s while a graduate student at UC Berkeley. I then served for 26 years in the USAF as an optometrist then ophthalmologist. My healthcare background suggests environmental issues are inseparable from public health issues. The business case for placing a priority on energy conservation and renewable energy, as well as the public health and national security arguments, should allow the Sierra Club to develop more allies in the critical campaign to minimize our carbon footprint. I enjoy many outdoor activities including hiking, biking, camping, kayaking, and skiing. It is critical to our national physical and spiritual health to protect areas where all citizens have improved access to a healthy outdoor environment.

CAROLYN WELLS

Hello fellow greenies. (All kidding aside.) I'm running for another term on the ExCom. For those of you that I haven't met or don't know me, let me give you an update on myself. I've been an active Sierra Club member since 1998. During all this time, I've served on several committees, the most current being part of the Alamo Group ExCom team for two years. It's exciting times these days being an active environmentalist. Hope I can continue to serve our community with your vote of confidence, and a sweep of a pen, by checking my name on the ballot.

SCOTT WOLFE

I was born in New York City, am a graduate of Cornell University, and the father of two children. I am Sales Manager for a medical equipment company. Many of my philosophies center around respect for the planet and all things living on it. I roam through America's wilderness areas as a solo backpacker and amateur photographer. I can't even begin to express the cleansing (both mental and physical) that a long journey in the backcountry provides. I have been a Sierran on paper for two years, but have been a Sierran in principle for much of my life. Currently I am an outings leader for hikes and backpacks. If elected, I'll bring a great deal of energy and a healthy perspective to the committee.

Electrons or Cash? Continued

or even print an exact copy of the familiar paper edition. If you decide you prefer paper, you can easily switch back at any time. Use the handy form inside this issue, or contact Loyd Cortez at loydcortez@earthlink.net. Provide your name as it appears on your mailing label and the email address you wish to use. We'll do the rest.

For those who prefer to receive

the paper newsletter by mail as always, we request a voluntary, optional donation of \$10 to help us keep the presses rolling. Send it to Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 6443, San Antonio, TX 78209. Use the enclosed envelope and form for electronic delivery, donations, or voting in the Executive Committee elections. Thanks for your continuing support and environmental activism.

to keep the winter blahs away. Difficulty: MODERATE. Lunch at a nearby restaurant after the hike is an option. Donation requested. Contact Jerry Morrissey at jlmorrissey@aol.com or 382-2614 for details.

SAT-SUN, JAN 19-20: PEDERNALES FALLS STATE PARK CAR CAMPING AND HIKING

Enjoy winter hiking and camping at Pedernales Falls S.P. Meet at 9 AM. We'll set out on a 4-mile hike on Saturday after lunch and will take 8-mile Wolf Mountain trail on Sunday morning. Optional bike ride in afternoon. Difficulty: MODERATE. Suggested donation: \$4. Everyone pays their own entry fee and we'll split the cost of campsites. Leader: Ned Allen 347-4768 or nolrvrman@yahoo.com

SUN, JAN 27: MISSION TRAIL WALK

Leader: Fred Wills 673-9566 or fredwills@att.net. See website for details.

SAT, FEB 9: GOVERNMENT CANYON STATE NATURAL AREA DAY HIKE

Leader: Scott Wolfe, papawolfe@sbcglobal.net or 724-2707. See website for details.

Executive Committee Ballot

Please vote for three (3) candidates. If you have a joint membership, both you and your spouse may vote.

	Individual	2nd (Joint) member
Ellen Clegg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandy Redmond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jane Ward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carolyn Wells	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scott Wolfe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vote for no more than three candidates.
Must be postmarked on or before January 3

Sierra Socials

JAN 3, SAM'S BURGER JOINT, 330 E. GRAYSON, 223-2830, 5-8 PM

Come and enjoy live music, good food and lively conversation. Contact Loyd Cortez at loydcortez@earthlink.net or 674-9489 so that we can get a head count.

FEB 15, BLUE CACTUS CAFE AT WETMORE STORE,

13525 WETMORE ROAD, 490-7330, 5-8 PM
Wonderful food. Historic building. Live music some nights. B.B.Q., chicken fried steak, and other entrees. Best onion rings in S.A. Contact Loyd Cortez at loydcortez@earthlink.net or 674-9489 so that we can get a head count.

Sierra Club Calendars Are in.

Support your local Sierra Club group by purchasing your 2008 calendars from us. These gorgeous calendars make great gifts. Contact Loyd Cortez at 674-9489, or just bring your money to the next General Meeting.

Engagement Calendar: \$14
Wall Calendar: \$13

Marsha Meredith, MarshaM@satx.rr.com (675-4097) and Ellen Clegg, eclegg@els.edu (488-7787)

SAT, JAN 5: MEDINA RIVER PARK FAT BURNER DAY HIKE

Start at 10 AM for a brisk walk to get rid of extra holiday calories. Call for directions to park. Suggested donation: \$2. Leaders: Jerry Morrissey at jlmorrissey@aol.com or 382-2614 and Fred Wills at 673-9566 or fredwills@att.net

FRI-SUN, JAN 11-13: LOST MAPLES STATE NATURAL AREA FREEZERIE CAMPOUT

Join us for a freezerie campout at Lost Maples with members of the Austin Group. Hot chocolate, warm campfires, comfort food, and hiking will be the themes of this trip to one of our most spectacular state parks. Potluck dinner on Friday night. Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner and Sunday breakfast will be furnished by the Club. Fees: \$30 per person (includes camping and specified meals), plus park entrance @ \$5 per vehicle per day. Contact Steve Funderburg (317-4186 or sfunderburg@rkci.com) for more information or to reserve your place on the trip.

SUN, JAN 13: MUD CREEK DAY HIKE.

10 AM start. A brisk 2-hour hike in a Hill Country setting in north central San Antonio is a great way



dry cleaning EVOLVED

The future is here.

**404.0026
www.ClotheslineSA.com**

OUTINGS

MON-TUES, DEC 31-JAN 1: FROZEN CHOSEN CAMPOUT

Come enjoy New Year's Eve at Enchanted Rock. Be prepared for chilly conditions. Potluck dinner and trash bag salad Monday evening. Climb the rock Tuesday morning. Difficulty: EASY to MODERATE. Suggested donation: \$4 per adult. Participants pay their own state park entrance fee and share cost for campsites. Car-pooling is encouraged. Leaders:

MEETING DATES AND CONTACT INFO

General Meeting: 3rd Tuesday 7 p.m. Jerry Morrissey 497-5470
 Executive Committee: 4th Monday, 7 p.m. Tom Dukes 828-3721
 Newsletter Submissions deadline 3rd Thursday (Thursday before ExCom) . Fred Wills fredwills@att.net
 Newsletter Mail Party: 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m. Jim Stewart 692-0727
 Outings Committee Meeting: 1st Wednesday every 2 months, 7 p.m. Lee Dodge 647-0216
 Conservation Committee Meeting: 1st Monday, 7 p.m. Paula Stone 393-7351

ALAMO GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS & MEMBERS

Jerry Morrissey Chair Person 497-5470
 Loyd Cortez Vice Chair 674-9489
 Carolyn Wells Secretary 271-0640
 Tom Dukes 828-3721
 Hector Gonzalez 226-6069
 Eloise Stoker 828-0919
 Paula Stone 393-7351
 Fred Wills 673-9566
 Sharon Dukes (non voting) Treasurer 828-3721

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

Programs Eloise Stoker 828-0919
 Membership Loyd Cortez 674-9489
 Publicity Linda Higby (585) 330-1890
 Mailings Jim Stewart 692-0727
 Newsletter Fred Wills 673-9566
 Website Tom Dukes 828-3721

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Outings Chair Lee Dodge 647-0216
 Political Committee Beck Steiner 342-6694
 Outreach & Education .. Carolyn Wells 271-0640

CONSERVATION CONTACTS

Conservation Chair L. Van coppenolle 492-4620
 Co-Chair Randy Carrol-Bradd .. 216-6125
 Endangered Species Fred Wills 673-9566
 Fluoridation L. Van Coppenolle 492-4620
 Genetically Modified Organisms Michele Petty 490-4133
 Organic Gardening Dave Klar 495-2148
 Recycling Patricia Martinez 454-5920
 Tree Conservation Richard Alles 494-2088
 Water Issues Jerry Morrisey 497-5470

U.S. CONGRESSPERSONS

Charlie Gonzalez (210) 472-6195
 Lamar Smith (210) 821-5024
 Henry Cuellar (210) 271-2851
 Ciro Rodriguez (210) 922-1874

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Phil Hardberger; 207-7060; mayor@sanantonio.gov
 Dist. 1: Mary Alice P. Cisneros; 207-7279; district1@sanantonio.gov
 Dist. 2: Sheila McNeil; 207-7278; district2@sanantonio.gov
 Dist. 3: Roland Gutierrez; 207-7064; district3@sanantonio.gov
 Dist. 4: Phillip A. Cortez; 207-7281; district4@sanantonio.gov
 Dist. 5: Lourdes Galvan; 207-7043; district5@sanantonio.gov
 Dist. 6: Delicia Herrera; 207-7065; district6@sanantonio.gov
 Dist. 7: Justin Rodriguez; 207-7044; district7@sanantonio.gov
 Dist. 8: Diane G. Cibrian; 207-7086; district8@sanantonio.gov
 Dist. 9: Kevin Wolff; 207-7325; district9@sanantonio.gov
 Dist. 10: John G. Clamp; 207-7276; district10@sanantonio.gov

The Alamo Sierran published monthly (except July) by the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, 615 Willow, San Antonio, TX 78202. Members support the Sierran and receive the publication as part of membership. Nonmember subscriptions \$10.00/year. Periodical postage paid at San Antonio, Texas. Publication No. 018475

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sierra Club Member Services, PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322 or email to address.changes@sierraclub.org

Alamo Group website address
www.alamosierraclub.org

Thanks to Dave Hammeren of The Printed Word, 6502 Bandera Rd Suite 205, San Antonio, Tel 520-5700 for our nominal newsletter cost.

Alamo Group of the Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 6443
 San Antonio, Texas 78209

PERIODICAL

Membership

Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ ZIP _____
 email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
 Mastercard Visa Exp Date ____/____/____

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

F94Q **W 1913** -1 **SIERRA CLUB**
 FOUNDED 1892
Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968

Join Online!

Join online today and receive a free Expedition Pack! Just go to our website at <http://alamosierraclub.org> and click

Join the Sierra Club

Travel and Outdoor Outfitters since 1970

• Climbing, Camping & Expedition Gear
 • Remarkable Clothing and Footwear
 • Luggage, Packs
 • Travel and Hiking Guides
 • Beautiful & Unusual Gifts and Toys

Whole Earth Provision Company
ALAMO QUARRY MARKET
 255 East Base, 210-629-8888
www.WholeEarthProvision.com